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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Trends in Social Democratic Party

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN  
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1. The leadership of the Social Democratic Party is resolved to follow through on its recently announced suggestion that Czech parliamentary elections be held in the spring of 1948.
2. The Social Democrats do not count on any serious opposition from either the National Socialists or the People's Party. However, it is felt that the Communists will dodge the issue as much as possible because it is the party most likely to recede from its electoral strength of 1946. Whereas the National Socialists are currently pressing the emphasis on municipal elections to be held before a general election, the Social Democrats are not too much interested.
3. The Social Democratic party has at the present time 8,000 local organizations in Bohemia-Moravia as against 5,000 before the war. Current efforts are underway to add another 2,000 so that the party would have at least one trustee in even the smallest village.
4. The pressure for elections unquestionably is a reflection of the optimism which greatly prevails in Social Democratic circles, which is based not only on the extent of the local organizations built up since May, 1946 - - but also on the expectancy of gain from defections in both the Communist and National Socialist Party.
5. In recent weeks the Social Democrats, probably because of their bad experiences with the Minister of Information, Kopecky, in the case of Dr. Patzak, have taken the position that the Ministry of Information is no longer needed as a cabinet level agency. This is a view long championed by the National Socialist Party and it is possible that the two parties will exert combined pressure in the direction of having the post abolished after the next elections. To the accomplishment of this end, the Social Democratic Party might be willing to consider the liquidation of the Ministry of Food, which portfolio is in their hands at the present time.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.